

A photograph of a forest scene. A large tree trunk with rough, brown bark and patches of green moss is the central focus. Several thin, brown branches with bright green, serrated leaves are in the foreground, partially obscuring the tree trunk. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting more foliage.

A Corporate Publication of Santee Cooper

POWERSOURCE

Summer 2013

FROM *the* CEO



Exceptional customer service is more than a motto at Santee Cooper. It is a central tenet of our operations, and key to achieving our mission, which is to be the leading resource for improving the quality of life for all South Carolinians. We work to deliver exceptional customer service on a daily basis.

Increasingly, our customers are receiving information and conducting business electronically, through texts, Internet applications and more. So is Santee Cooper. Most recently, Santee Cooper launched a redesigned website May 31, featuring new tools and shortcuts to improve and tailor the customer experience.

Our updated site is modern and streamlined. Along with a simpler layout, we have improved access to key customer services, such as electronic bill pay, and integrated our content on Facebook, Twitter, the Santee Cooper Blog and other social media.



The new website is the latest improvement among several that have focused on better customer communications over the past two years. We launched our mobile website in January 2011, making important information available at the click of a smartphone button for customers and Santee Cooper Lakes users on the go. We also unveiled Storm Center, a Web-based outage resource with near-real-time updates on outages and restoration efforts. Storm Center also allows customers to report outages via the Web or their smartphones. In early 2012 we added Live Chat as a feature on our website. Our PowerSource magazine now publishes additional, interactive content through its year-old iPad application, which is available for free on Apple's Newsstand, in addition to our quarterly print magazine.

We will continue our traditional means of communication and service to customers through bill inserts and friendly, one-on-one assistance at our nine retail offices. Customers can still receive paper bills and talk to us directly by calling our Customer Care Center during regular business hours.

The redesign and upgrades to the website are just one way Santee Cooper continues to keep our customers top of mind and do business with them on their time, where they prefer, whether that's online, in person or over the phone. Through traditional means or new technologies, Santee Cooper remains focused on serving our customers at their convenience.

A handwritten signature of Lonnie N. Carter in black ink.

Lonnie N. Carter
President and
Chief Executive Officer

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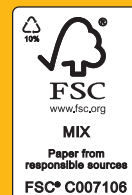
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Powerful Partnership Works for South Carolina

By Mollie Gore

Photos by Jim Huff



May 20 dawned dark and stormy, but even the swirling clouds couldn't dampen the spirits of 100 or so electric cooperative and utility leaders gathered expectantly under a tent by Lake Moultrie.

Indeed, the partnership strengthened by that morning's contract signing ceremony proved more powerful than the storm, which kept a respectful distance as Santee Cooper President and CEO Lonnie Carter and Central Electric Power Cooperative President and CEO Ronald J. Calcaterra took pens in hand.

Santee Cooper President and CEO Lonnie Carter (left) and Central Electric Power President and CEO Ron Calcaterra take pens in hand for a significant deal that will potentially save billions of dollars over its lifetime. Members of the two organizations' negotiating teams look on.



Top: O.L. Thompson, chairman of the Santee Cooper Board of Directors from 2005 through early June 2013, discussed the deal's benefits for economic development at the signing ceremony May 20.



Lawrence J. Hinz, Central chairman, noted the amendment provides long-term improvements for cooperative customers in his signing ceremony remarks.

"This is the best autograph I have ever been asked to give," Carter said immediately after he and Calcaterra signed a milestone amendment to the coordination agreement that governs the organizations' business relationship. The amendment effectively provides a continuing partnership through 2058 and has the potential to save customers billions of dollars over the contract lifetime.

Central, which provides planning and wholesale power aggregation and wholesale transmission delivery services to the state's 20 cooperatives, is Santee Cooper's largest customer. Santee Cooper and the electric cooperatives served by Central provide electricity to more than 2 million people in all 46 counties of the state, making this a truly powerful partnership that delivers affordable, reliable electricity across South Carolina.

Originally drafted in 1980, the Power Systems Coordination and Integration Agreement between Central and Santee Cooper was set to expire in 2030 – practically tomorrow in industrial contract terms. This new amendment carries the Central-Santee Cooper relationship, which originally dates back to 1950, through its first centennial.

"The electric industry is vastly different today than it was in 1980," Calcaterra said. "This amendment actually brings the contract in line with current operating conditions in our industry. It provides a platform for us to continue delivering affordable, reliable and environmentally sound power going forward into the next century."

Getting to this point was a lengthy, complex process that began in January 2012, with both sides intent on securing the best deal possible for their stakeholders. The resulting agreement is one through

which everyone benefits – the cooperative members and Santee Cooper’s other residential, commercial, industrial and wholesale customers.

The amendment includes two key provisions:

- *It extends until Dec. 31, 2058 the earliest date that the agreement could be terminated.*
- *It provides better alignment of the interests of both parties, enabling better joint planning.*

Extending the contract has the potential to save billions of dollars for the homes and businesses ultimately served by Central and Santee Cooper. It gives stability and

certainty to the credit agencies as they rate Santee Cooper’s bonds going forward, and it lets the market know that because the two organizations are aligned, the financial stability will be there for years to come.

“This amendment will let us refinance some of the money that we’ve already borrowed, and certainly for the money that we’re going to borrow, spread it out over the life of these assets,” Carter said. “It’s like instead of having to have a 15-year mortgage, we can have a 30-year mortgage. We can have lower debt payments and so make rates lower to our customers over the long term.”

Carter is looking for initial debt savings of \$75 million a year. Savings also will be

This heavy derrick, the largest in the world, is hard at work at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station construction site for units 2 and 3, where it is placing modular components for Unit 2. Anticipated — and significant — savings in financing Santee Cooper’s share of the nuclear expansion project are one key benefit to the amended coordination agreement with Central.





Leadership of Central Electric Power Cooperative and the state's electric cooperatives

realized through better joint planning, which will enable the two systems to function as efficiently as possible together.

The benefits are bigger than just the impact on financing costs for existing customers. Santee Cooper and Central work hard to attract and retain industrial customers and the good jobs they provide, and one of the biggest considerations in industrial locations today is cost of power. By keeping costs as low as possible, the organizations can best serve the state's future economic prosperity as well.

"I'm a planner at heart. I'm a firm believer that the better the plans are, the better the outcome," Calcaterra said. "With this plan, we can go out together and get a whole lot more done for the people of South Carolina."

"With this plan, we can go out together and get a whole lot more done for the people of South Carolina."



The South Carolina Power Team:

A Quarter-Century of Results

By Kevin F. Langston

Photography by Jim Huff

The histories of Santee Cooper and South Carolina's electric cooperatives are largely entwined. Today, it's difficult to imagine one existing without the other. Both came about during the Great Depression, and both were seen as vital economic engines for a state long starved for prosperity.

For the past 25 years, a keystone of that tradition has been the South Carolina Power Team.



In the beginning...

Santee Cooper was established by an enabling act that was signed into law on April 7, 1934. One of the major reasons for the company's formation was to electrify the rural areas of the state by supplying power to the state's electric cooperatives.

Cooperatives began purchasing Santee Cooper power as soon as we began producing it in February 1942, but a lack of infrastructure meant some of the cooperatives that wanted to buy Santee Cooper electricity could not. So, 14 of them formed Central Electric Power Cooperative Inc. in 1948 to build a transmission system that would connect with ours.

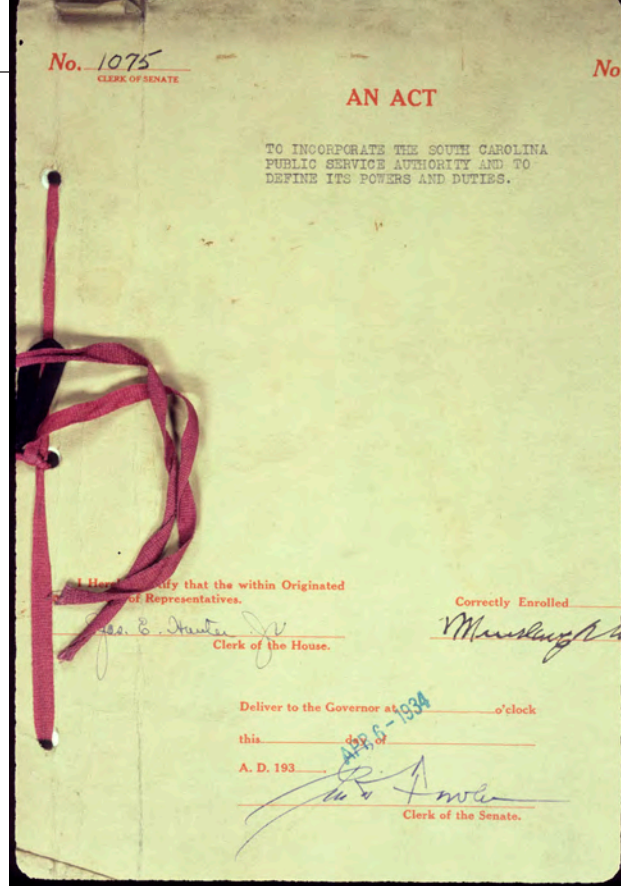
Santee Cooper and Central initially signed an agreement in 1950 that designated Santee Cooper as Central's long-term source of power. In May, we extended this partnership through 2058. (See article, page 4.) Today, Central is our largest single customer and represents about 60 percent of the electricity we generate. Central then sells our power to the state's 20 individual cooperatives.

In 1935, a year after Santee Cooper was created, less than 2.5 percent of South Carolina's 165,504 farms had electricity. By our 25th anniversary in 1959, more than 91 percent of 124,403 had electricity, and 92,000 of them were served either by us or through the electric cooperatives.

The symbiotic relationship between Santee Cooper and the electric cooperatives has reaped countless benefits through a statewide power system that has offered low-cost and reliable electricity for new and expanding businesses, benefitting millions of South Carolinians over the past 64 years.

Palmetto Economic Development Corp.

Santee Cooper and the electric cooperatives recommitted their economic development efforts in 1988 by creating the Palmetto Economic Development Corp. Known today as the South Carolina Power Team, it is an economic-development alliance whose mission



The enabling legislation that created the South Carolina Public Service Authority (commonly known as Santee Cooper) and defined its powers and duties. Governor Ibra C. Blackwood signed the act into law on April 7, 1934.

is to attract and retain jobs and capital investment in South Carolina, particularly in its rural areas.

The Power Team was formally established on Aug 23, and the original eight-member board of trustees was established with equal representation from Santee Cooper and the electric cooperatives.

The following month, the Power Team moved into its office at 1201 Main Street, located strategically across from the South Carolina Statehouse in downtown Columbia. They hit the ground running.

In its first year, the Power Team held its inaugural Economic Development Review conference, which has become an annual event for statewide economic development professionals. It also helped bring Domtar Corp. to Marlboro County, which represented 447 new jobs, a capital investment of \$325 million, and a major new customer for Marlboro Electric Cooperative.

It would be the first of many industrial location and expansion announcements that have occurred over the past 25 years,

which include brands like Google, Nucor Steel, Wal-Mart, Honda, Coca-Cola and Caterpillar.

Power Players

Since 1988, the Power Team has been involved in more than 600 new and expanded industrial projects in South Carolina, which represent \$9 billion in capital investment and the creation of more than 50,000 new jobs with an annual payroll of \$2 billion.

One man has overseen every one of these achievements: Ralph U. Thomas who, before retiring this summer, had spent nearly 50 years as an economic developer in South Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas.

“We cannot begin to calculate how many lives have been positively affected because of Ralph’s work,” Santee Cooper President and CEO Lonnie Carter says. “Under his leadership, the Power Team has become an acknowledged pillar of the state’s economic development

Ralph U. Thomas



1988

August 23 The organizational meeting for the board of trustees of Palmetto Economic Development Corp. (the Power Team) is held.

September 15 The Power Team occupies its present office suite at 1201 Main Street in Columbia.

Domtar Marlboro Mill announces its location in Marlboro Electric service area: \$325 million capital investment and 447 jobs.

1989

June 1 The first Economic Development Review (EDR) conference is held at Wampee Conference Center. It will be held annually thereafter.

August 15 The Santee Cooper Economic Development Investment Fund (SCEDIF) is approved. Its purpose is to further support the electric cooperatives in their economic development efforts.

Golden State Foods announces its location in Mid-Carolina Electric service area: \$6 million capital investment and 108 jobs.

1990

Allvac Richburg announces its location in Fairfield Electric service area: \$85 million capital investment and 185 jobs.

1991

EDR moves to Myrtle Beach, and its present format is adopted. EDR has been held in Wampee, Myrtle Beach, Greenville and Hilton Head Island.

1993

The Power Team conducts its first survey of 162 electrical cooperatives’ industrial customers to measure industrial growth in rural areas. The industrial expansion survey continues to this day.

Nan Ya Plastics announces its expansion in Santee Electric service area: \$80 million capital investment and 326 jobs.

The South Carolina Power Team staff as of June 2013. Pictured from left to right are Clancy Courtney, manager of facilities planning; Jeffrey G. “Jeff” Ruble, vice president of business recruitment; R. Andrew Folks, director of business relations; Jan Guerry, administrative assistant; Ralph U. Thomas, president; Diane Bean, executive secretary; Donald P. “Rusty” Reed, vice president of business development; and Fred J. Gassaway, executive vice president of marketing.

community through its support of local and regional economic development organizations, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce.”

Reflecting on his career and on the Power Team’s success, Thomas says the Power Team’s mission has also been to serve the state.

“I am proud of our many accomplishments, including our standing in South Carolina’s economic development community,” Thomas says. “Other than the Department of Commerce, I’m not aware of any other economic developmental organization that is statewide and has had as much positive economic impact as the Power Team. There’s a lot more to do, and we need to keep working hard.”

On June 7, the Power Team named James Chavez as its new president and CEO.

Chavez, president and CEO of Tennessee’s Clarksville-Montgomery Economic Development Council, facilitated more than \$2.85 billion in capital investment and created more than 3,000 direct jobs



in Montgomery County. The county was 22nd in the state in per capita income in 2000. Under Chavez’s tenure, the county’s per-capita income has grown steadily and now sits at fourth in Tennessee. The larger metropolitan area he serves was recently ranked second-fastest growing in the U.S., and Montgomery County is the 30th fastest growing county in the nation. Chavez played a significant role in building Clarksville’s reputation as one of Tennessee’s most vibrant and fastest-growing cities.

1994

Sun City-Hilton Head announces a community location in Palmetto Electric service area: \$49.8 million capital investment and 245 jobs.

1995

Wal-Mart Distribution announces its location in Lynches River Electric service area: \$50 million capital investment and 400 jobs.

Nucor Steel announces its location in Santee Cooper’s direct-service area: \$807 million capital investment and 800 jobs.



1997

Honda of South Carolina announces its location in Pee Dee Electric service area: \$50 million capital investment and 600 jobs.

1998

The Power Team produces the first “Why Companies Locate in South Carolina,” promoting the state’s strategic location, productive workforce, quality of life, low costs and professional location assistance. It is updated and reprinted four times between 1998 and 2008.

August The Power Team celebrates its first decade of service, through which the agency had participated in announced industrial location and expansion projects representing \$3 billion and almost 16,000 new jobs.

Southeast Frozen Foods announces its location in Tri-County Electric service area: \$8 million capital investment and 40 jobs.



“James Chavez brings to the Power Team a tremendous record in building alliances that result in new jobs and industrial growth for the communities he serves, which will be key as he takes on a diverse territory that includes some of the most rural areas in South Carolina,” Ronald J. Calcaterra, president and CEO of Central Electric Power Cooperative, said in announcing the new CEO. “In Clarksville, he brought leaders together and forged an economic development strategic plan that has literally

transformed that area. He also was lead prospector and negotiator for the largest attraction deal in Tennessee’s history, a \$2 billion manufacturing facility that will play a big role in solar energy panel manufacturing.”

Chavez told the Power Team staff in June he is eager to get underway.

“I promise the communities across South Carolina that I will spend the time it takes to get to know them and their needs,” he said then. “My professional path has allowed me to serve metropolitan, suburban and rural communities, and I believe my experience will provide an avenue to quickly connect and identify the best ways I can serve each area of the state. The Power Team has an outstanding track record. Honoring the organization’s legacy of leadership and service to communities will be critically important, while harnessing the opportunity to build teams and alliances that will deliver even more value to the Palmetto State.”

1999

The Power Team becomes only the second economic development agency (other than S.C. Dept. of Commerce) to have statewide presence after five Upstate electric cooperatives become members of Central Electric.

2000

Komatsu announces its location in Newberry Electric service area: \$20 million capital investment and 270 jobs.

Millard Refrigerated announces its location in Broad River Electric service area: \$20 million capital investment and 100 jobs.

Newman Technology announces its location in Aiken Electric service area: \$15 million capital investment and 100 jobs.



2002

The Power Team commissions the first of three studies by The Pathfinders to assist local economic developers with the procurement of quality labor market information. The first study provides demographic information on 12 labor regions in the state.

Balchem announces its location in Coastal Electric service area: \$3.7 million capital investment and 20 jobs.

2004

Citifinancial announces its location of a call center in York Electric service area: \$20 million capital investment and 1,600 jobs.

A Powerful Pace

Chavez joins an agency that, from the outset, has brought a dogged determination to its economic development ambitions. In addition to the annual Economic Development Review conference, the Power Team began conducting surveys to measure industrial expansion in the state's rural areas. In 1998, it produced the first "Why Companies Locate in South Carolina," a marketing publication that promotes five critical attributes for South Carolina: strategic location, productive workforce, quality of life, low costs and professional location assistance. The "Why Book" has been updated and reprinted four times since.

In 2006, the Power Team introduced three initiatives to further statewide economic development efforts by certifying sites, providing professional development training and assisting with strategic planning.

Through five years, a total of \$945,201 in funding was awarded through the Certified Sites Initiative, resulting in 24 industrial properties across the state being certified "shovel ready" for acquisition and development.

Over that same timeframe, the Professional Development Initiative provided \$118,430 in scholarships to 44 professionals from economic development organizations across the state.

Since 2006, the Strategic Planning Initiative has awarded more than \$1.3 million to county development groups and regional

2005

ISO Poly Films announces its expansion in Laurens Electric service area: \$25 million capital investment and 50 jobs.

2006

The Power Team introduces three initiatives that offer to certify sites, provide professional development training, and assist with strategic planning for economic development.

2007

Google announces its location of a data center in Berkeley Electric service area: \$600 million capital investment and 200 jobs.



2008

August The Power Team acknowledges its second decade of service, through which it had participated in announced industrial location and expansion projects representing \$8.1 billion and 43,500 new jobs.

Sandvik AB announces its expansion in Blue Ridge Electric service area: \$47.5 million and 92 jobs.

Rocking R International announces its location in Little River Electric service area: \$1 million capital investment and 85 jobs.



alliances to hire professional consultants to develop 50 organization-specific strategic plans, target industry studies or marketing implementation plans.

The Power Team has given Santee Cooper and the electric cooperatives much to be proud of, and it's given South Carolinians much to be thankful for.

All told, the Power Team has committed more than \$2.4 million in grants through these initiatives to support economic growth in South Carolina.

"South Carolina is better because of the work of the Power Team, and they're just getting started," says Santee Cooper's Carter. "I do believe the best is yet to come."

2009

Coca-Cola announces its location of a distribution center in Horry Electric service area: \$4 million capital investment and 50 jobs.

2010

The Power Team formally targets five industrial sectors for recruitment: aerospace, automotive, logistics, medical, and renewable energy.

2011

The Carolinas I-95 Mega Site is certified as shovel ready. The site represents a three-year collaboration among Dillon County Council, Dillon County Economic Development Partnership, North Eastern Strategic Alliance, Marlboro Electric Cooperative and the Power Team.

Through five years, the Power Team has contributed more than \$2 million in funding for its site certification, strategic planning and professional development initiatives.

SE Renewable Energy announces its location in Edisto Electric service area: \$50 million capital investment and 20 jobs.

2012

February 1 The electric cooperatives and Santee Cooper launch an economic development incentive electric rate to encourage industry to locate and expand in their service areas.

The Power Team names food and agribusiness as an additional target industry sector.

Caterpillar Inc. announces its expansion in Black River Electric service area: \$20 million capital investment and 80 jobs.

Business Briefly

Board expands economic development rate

The Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved April 26 an expansion of the utility's economic development rate for new industry, adding a year to the program and increasing the discount.

The economic development rate, as approved by the board in January 2012, offered an initial discount of 45 percent off the demand charge in the "firm" industrial rate to a new or expanding industry, and that discount tapers gradually over four years. The discounted rate was offered to new or expanded businesses through December 2014.

The April vote increases the initial discount to 55 percent, extends the taper period to five years and extends the rate offering through December 2015. While the new or expanded business must meet minimum employment and capital investment requirements in order to qualify for the rate, the economic development rate will benefit all customer classes by attracting new load on the system and encouraging the expansion of existing industries.

Lord new board chairman, Finn reappointed

The state Senate on June 6 confirmed W. Leighton Lord III as chairman of the Santee Cooper Board of Directors. The Senate also confirmed the reappointment of William A. Finn to represent the 1st Congressional District.

Chairman Lord is a Columbia partner with Nexsen Pruet law firm who has represented the 2nd Congressional District on our board since 2009. He serves on the Legal Affairs, Human Resources, Property and Central/Santee Cooper Executive committees, and this year was serving as Property committee chairman. He is assuming the chairmanship from O.L. Thompson III, who served as chairman since 2005.

Director Finn, a Charleston resident and chairman of AstenJohnsen Inc., joined the board in 2006. He serves as the board's first vice chairman and chairs the Human Resources committee. Finn is also a member of the Central/

Santee Cooper Executive, Audit and Executive Corporate Planning committees.

Honda's \$27 million investment creating 65 new jobs

Honda of S.C. Manufacturing Inc. in Timmonsville unveiled its new 2014 Honda Pioneer 700-4 Multi-Utility Vehicle on June 21, which represents a \$27 million investment over the next four years and 65 new jobs.

Brisk growth in the Pioneer 700-4 sales prompted Honda to create a new production line at the Florence County facility, which makes nine different ATV models. The plant employs 609 full-time associates. Honda is served by Pee Dee Electric Cooperative.

Manufacturer relocating to business park in Horry County

PTR Industries announced late last month that it is relocating its Connecticut manufacturing facility to the Cool Springs Business Park located outside Aynor.

The firearms manufacturer's move means that about 50 new employees will be hired in 2014, while about 25 employees will likely move to South Carolina as part the relocation. By Dec. 31, 2016, the firm could have as many as 145 employees. The 67-acre business park is served by Horry Electric Cooperative.

Harbor Freight announces \$75 million expansion, 200 new jobs

Harbor Freight Tools, a discount tool and equipment retailer, announced in April it was expanding its 12-year-old distribution center at the Tri-County Gateway Industrial Park near Dillon.

The \$75 million expansion, which is expected to create 200 new jobs, doubles Harbor Freight's distribution facility to 2 million square feet. Hiring is projected to begin in October with the project being completed in 2014. The facility, located off Interstate 95, is served by Marlboro Electric Cooperative.



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By Willard Strong

The Palmetto State's Only One:



Congaree National Park

Photography by Jim Huff



This turtle is one of at least 52 reptile and amphibian species that have been identified at Congaree National Park.

The 1934 state law establishing Santee Cooper stated the utility:

“...is created primarily for the purpose of developing the Cooper River, the Santee River, the Congaree River and their tributaries upstream...as instrumentalities of intrastate, interstate and foreign commerce, and navigation.”

Flash forward from 1934 to today. The Cooper River has most certainly developed (with and without Santee Cooper’s involvement), and the shoreline of the 35 mile-long tidal river flowing into Charleston features industry, power generation, water-borne commerce, residential development, angling and boating.

Conversely, the Santee River shoreline below the dam and the shoreline of the 47 mile long Congaree River, essentially remain the same as they were over three-quarters of a century ago. This is, of course, prior to the 1942-45 construction of the Santee Cooper Hydroelectric and Navigation Project, the purpose of the 1934 law.

Remaining untouched has proven particularly fortuitous for the Congaree River, which features a shoreline and tract of land environmentally unique to all of South Carolina.

It is the Palmetto State’s only national park, comprising 26,546 acres in Richland County with the park’s entire southern border being the Congaree River, which flows southwesterly from Columbia.

▼
Congaree National
Park has the largest
tract of old-growth,
bottomland
forest remaining
in the country.
▲

Its eastern border includes a sliver of the Wateree River, which flows south from Camden. The park's southernmost border includes the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers, forming the Santee River, which flows into Lake Marion.

The History

The Congaree National Park was known as the Congaree Swamp National Monument prior to its current designation by Congress on Nov. 10, 2003. Doesn't sound too inviting, does it? A swamp, with some type of "monument." To many of the uninformed, that equals, well...boring. That it is not.

That's because the park has a unique and unparalleled claim to fame: It is the largest tract of old-growth, bottomland

forest remaining in the country. Presented with that fact, many South Carolinians may respond, "Who knew?" This is an undiscovered treasure.

Since the advent of people armed with axes and saws, large loblolly pines and towering cypress trees have proven very attractive to large-scale timber harvesting.

The Congaree area is no exception. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, there were about 1 million acres of old growth forest in South Carolina prior to the 1880s.

In the late 19th century, a lumber company owned by a man named Francis Beidler began cutting timber in the state from his

The papaw (also spelled pawpaw), whose scientific name is *Asimina triloba*, is a tree that features oblong edible fruit containing many seeds.



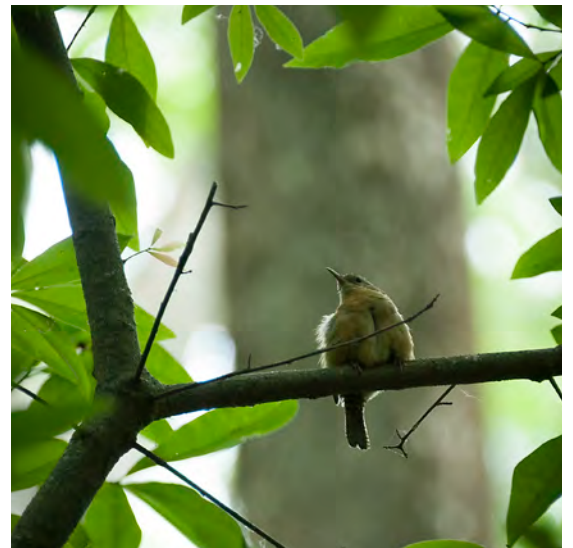
HIKING TRAILS INCLUDE:

11.1-mile King Snake Trail

.5-mile Oakridge Trail

4.6-mile Weston Lake
Loop Trail

.7-mile Bluff Trail



Clockwise from top: The 1.3-mile long elevated boardwalk winds through a mix of bottomland hardwoods and upland pine trees. The boardwalk ends at Weston Lake, an old channel of the Congaree River.

Bird watching is one of the drawing cards at the park, which provides an attractive habitat to approximately 170 species of our feathered friends.

New Jersey residents Julia Criscione (left) and Anthony Vastano visited the park in June as a side trip while on their way to Florida. They are recent graduates of Rutgers University, where Criscione majored in geology and Vastano majored in marine biology.



expansive holdings. However, the forest was especially hard to log because it's a flood plain forest.



This flood plain is near the end of the nearly 15,000 square mile Santee Cooper watershed, which extends into northwestern South Carolina and western North Carolina. Lakes Marion and Moultrie, the Santee Cooper Lakes, comprise the terminus of this vast “geographic funnel” that captures the flow of water into the lakes.



In the old days, putting loggers and equipment in harm's way as a result of rapidly rising floodwaters simply had timber interests looking elsewhere for more “low-hanging fruit” as they say, or in this case, “low-hanging lumber.”

As the National Park Service stated, “In less than 50 years (from the late 1880s), most of these great bottomland forests were destroyed. Congarees’ trees escaped large-scale cutting because logging was especially hard here,” and that Beidler’s firm “decided to leave the Congaree forest alone. Logging along the Congaree River ceased in 1914.”



Today, an important tract of Beidler’s land, about 16,000 acres, is preserved as the Francis Beidler Forest located in Dorchester County. It is owned and operated by the National Audubon Society.

Flooding may have halted attempts to log the area, but time and technology intervened. By the late 1960s, the swamp was being threatened anew. Modern logging methods, sophisticated equipment and, of course, the demand for lumber products for a growing America had chain saws poised to cut up what was left of South Carolina’s old growth forest.



The genesis that ultimately led to preserving this vast tract began in the 1950s with the efforts of Harry H.E. Hampton (1897-1980), a newspaperman at The State. One can easily characterize Hampton as one of South Carolina’s pioneering conservationists, along with Archibald Rutledge (1883-1973), the state’s first poet laureate.

Hampton had an outdoors column called “Woods and Water,” and a Sunday column called “The State’s Survey.” He routinely addressed environmental policy issues, predating the “environmental movement” that one may submit began with the first Earth Day in 1970. It was Hampton, more than anyone else, who identified the Congaree flood plain in lower Richland County as a unique ecosystem worthy of setting aside in perpetuity.

With the power of his pen, Hampton played a key role in establishing what grew into the S.C. Wildlife Federation and the creation of a state agency, the S.C. Wildlife Department, now the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.



Chief of Interpretation Lauren Gurniewicz (left) and Lindsay Compton, a park ranger, measure the circumference of one of the park's large cypress trees. This specimen is 18 feet, 4 inches.

at 162 feet, an American elm at 130 feet and a water tupelo at 126 feet.

“We have very diverse plant communities,” says Lauren Gurniewicz, the park’s chief of interpretation.

According to American Forests, a nonprofit conservation organization, a survey showed that there are about 170 bird species, at least 52 reptile and amphibian species and 49 fish species within the park.

Nearly 60 percent of the park is managed as wilderness.

“You can have an outstanding wilderness experience here,” says Park Ranger Lindsay Compton. “You can get it in a weekend or camp for up to 14 days here. We have a marked canoe trail for exploration of Cedar Creek, which feeds into the Congaree.”

Animals in the park include deer, feral hogs and dogs, turkeys, raccoons, opossums, bobcats and even armadillos. Amphibians abound and reptiles are represented by the American alligator and snakes, including the cottonmouth or water moccasin.

A staff of around 20 fulltime employees keeps the park running smoothly, with rangers working in law enforcement, administration, interpretation, resource management and maintenance. Dozens of volunteers contribute, and they’re always looking for more.

Hampton retired as The State’s co-editor in 1965 and around 1969, he, along with environmentally focused organizations and other interested citizens, launched a grassroots movement whose battle cry was “Save the Congaree.” Their efforts were opposed by private landowners, but their persistence paid off on Oct. 18, 1976, when President Gerald R. Ford signed a bill creating the Congaree Swamp National Monument.

Another significant event in the history of the park occurred on June 30, 1983, when it was declared an International Biosphere Reserve. On Oct. 24, 1988, a portion of the park became federally designated wilderness, providing recognition of and protection for Congaree’s valuable resources.

On July 26, 2001, the designation as a Globally Important Bird Area marked another milestone that led up to the park being the nation’s 57th national park two years later.

Congaree National Park Today

About 109,000 visitors enjoy the park each year. Upon arriving at the park, your first stop is the aptly named Harry Hampton Visitor Center. The 10-year-old facility is where interpretive exhibits, a bookstore and uniformed park rangers, ready to assist you with your visit, can be found.

While it’s not all about trees among the tallest east of the Mississippi, which form one of the highest temperate deciduous forest canopies left on Earth, they’re certainly a big part of the park’s attraction.

The forest is a mix of sweet gum and mixed hardwoods. One loblolly pine is nearly 170 feet tall (the tallest in the world) and more than 15 feet in circumference. A bald cypress is more than 27 feet in circumference. Other significant trees include a cherrybark oak

The park has partnerships with the University of South Carolina and Benedict College, both nearby, and Clemson University.

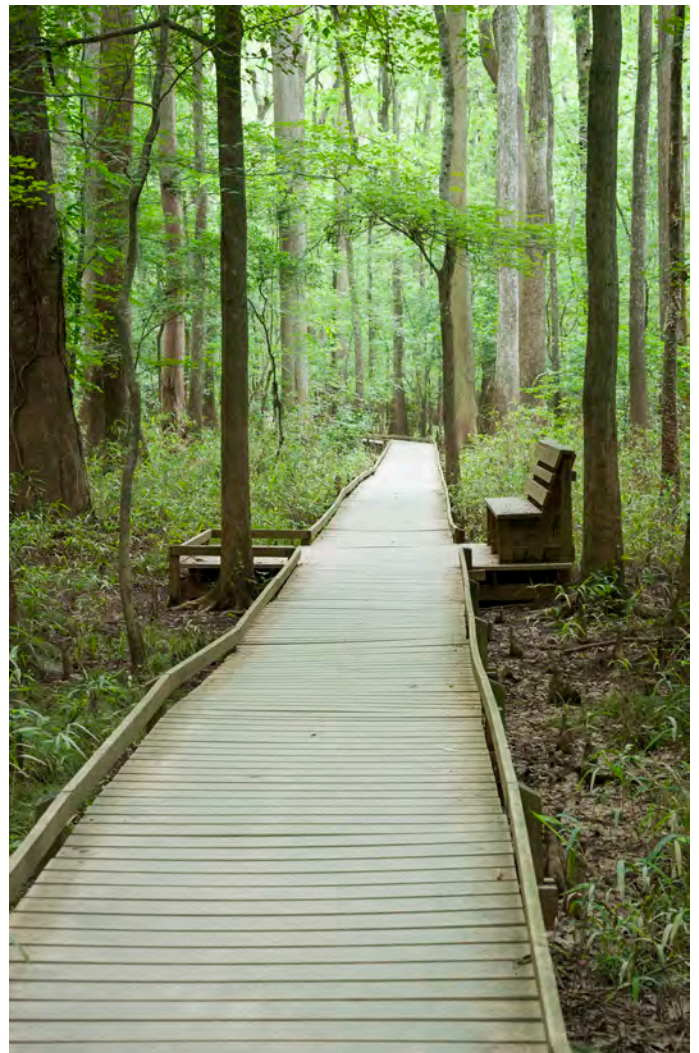
In 2009, South Carolina ETV produced a documentary on the park, “Roots in the River: The Story of Congaree National Park.” It’s available for purchase on ETV’s website. In addition, a new park orientation video is currently in production.

“I think the neat thing about this park is that so many people who were instrumental in its creation are still involved,” says Gurniewicz. “That’s very gratifying to see. We’ve come a long way in the experience we offer, from visitors driving down a gravel road and arriving at a small ranger station, to what we have now.”

Congaree National Park
100 National Park Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
803-776-4396
www.nps.gov/cong

Left: Just gaze skyward and you will discover many tall trees with unusual shapes at the park.

The elevated boardwalk is where visitors frequently hear the sound of woodpeckers as they chisel away among the hardwoods and pine trees.





For Safety's Sake

By Nicole A. Aiello

Photography by Jim Huff

Left: Santee Cooper's Jason Cox and Chad Bellamy work with a shotgun stick to safely complete the Vertical Phase Transfer event at the 16th annual Lineworkers' Rodeo.

Learning how to tie proper square knots, among others, helps keep line technicians safe in the field.



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At Santee Cooper's 16th annual Lineworkers' Rodeo, held May 4, it appears competitors are gunning for the fastest times. They need to be fast up the poles, fast at tying knots and fast at changing out equipment. And from an outside standpoint, how quickly competitors complete each event probably seems like the most important detail if they're going to win. I mean, it is a competition, right?

The need for speed doesn't win trophies in this competition, though. Sure, there's a time limit and competitors' times in each event could help boost them to victory, but at the rodeo, it's much more complicated than that.

Lineworkers won't win awards if they don't follow safety procedures.

At the rodeo, just like during their everyday jobs, the men and women who compete focus on safety and the procedures that keep them safe. Even greeters and judges at each event stress safety practices and remind competitors of the rules. Missing just one step in a procedure can cost them the win at the rodeo. In real life, though, it could cost them a lot more.

Phil Leake, a line technician with York Electric Cooperative, has been on the job for more than 10 years. Training for the Lineworkers' Rodeo, he said, is a great way to keep his skills sharp the rest of the year.

“This is about the best practice and training we can have. We train all year, which helps with climbing, teamwork and safety.”

The Santee Cooper team of Joe Sawyer, Chad Williams and Drew Jordan, which came in first place for the Journeyman division, high five after completing an event at the Lineworkers' Rodeo.



“This is about the best practice and training we can have. We train all year, which helps with climbing, teamwork and safety,” Leake said. “I think it’s good that the competition is not a free-for-all. We have to watch our Ps and Qs and follow correct procedures, or we’re not going to do well.”

At the Hurtman Rescue event, Jim Coleman, Santee Cooper’s manager of Occupational Safety and Health, explained what could happen if lineworkers are not safety conscious.

“This event simulates a worker who underwent an electric shock. If one of his team members doesn’t get him down from the top of the pole within four minutes after his heart stopped beating, brain damage sets in,” Coleman said. “Line technicians have to climb the pole and safely lower the individual, in this case a 150-pound mannequin, to the ground within that time period. It’s imperative they can perform the correct procedures in order to save a life.”

Coleman said line technicians have to be certified yearly in this procedure alone and by participating in the rodeo, lineworkers spend additional time learning and practicing their skills, making them more equipped to deal with critical situations.

Overall, safety needs to become second nature. Lineworkers need to know how

Top: Berkeley Electric Cooperative’s Manager of Distribution Operations John Villeponteaux (left) and President and CEO Dwayne Cartwright talk with Ryan Lail, one of 21 Berkeley Electric line technicians who competed in the rodeo.

C.J. Schaffer, competing in the Apprentice division for Santee Cooper, works to complete the backyard light event at the rodeo.



and when to correctly use safety equipment. And there's a lot of equipment they need to learn. Rubber gloves and liners, shotgun sticks, hard hats, safety glasses, steel-toed boots, insulating hoses, rubber blankets and more need to become second nature.

Dwayne Cartwright, Berkeley Electric Cooperative's president and CEO, agrees that practicing skills is crucial to safety in linework.

"We play together. We work together. We sweat together and we stick together," Cartwright said. "We couldn't do that if we weren't focused on safety."

He also emphasizes it takes a lot more than strength to do the job and equates the move from apprentice to A-class line technician to getting a formal education.

"Going through an apprenticeship is a five-year-long process, like getting a master's degree," explained Cartwright. "It takes a combination of physical and mental aptitude. Along with the physical strength and endurance, line technicians have to have brainpower."

In addition to line technicians following safety procedures, the industry itself has evolved, bringing new and innovative equipment onto the scene. Employees with Santee Cooper and South Carolina's electric cooperatives have embraced the improvements in safety equipment. Over the past few years, one particularly important piece of equipment — the fall arrest belt — has been adopted into everyday practice.

In the past, belts used when climbing utility poles came around the line technicians' hips and simply fastened around the pole. Fall arrest belts, however, have an additional strap that hugs the pole and,

HARD HAT
HEAD PROTECTION

SAFETY GLASSES
EYE PROTECTION

RUBBER GLOVES
PROTECTION FROM ELECTRICAL SHOCK

SHOTGUN STICK
**USED FOR SAFE OPERATION OF
SWITCHES FROM A DISTANCE**

SAFETY BELT
**USED FOR SAFETY STRAP
ATTACHMENT DURING POLE CLIMBING**

**FALL ARREST SAFETY STRAP AND
CROSSOVER ROPE**
PROVIDES SAFETY DURING POLE CLIMBING

STEEL TOE BOOTS
FOOT PROTECTION

SAFETY CHECK





Top left: Justin Milligan, a Santee Cooper line technician, demonstrates how a fall arrest belt hooks together properly.

Above: Coastal Electric's Marshall Norris (left), who achieved first place in the Apprentice division, stands with Coastal's Journeyman team of Richard Massey, Tommy Blauser and Kevin Wilds.

Santee Cooper's Jason Cox prepares equipment for an event at the 16th annual Lineworkers' Rodeo.



when used properly, prevent climbers from falling 20, 30 or more than 40 feet to the ground.

At the rodeo, Justin Milligan, a Santee Cooper line technician B, demonstrated how the fall arrest belt works. After securing the belt properly, Milligan pulled his gaffs out of the pole, let go and dropped – about two feet.

Other safety equipment is just as important as the fall arrest belt, and several vendors at the rodeo were showcasing the newest personal protective equipment. Donovan Baker, regional sales director for Salisbury by Honeywell, showed off some of the newest and most state-of-the-art protective equipment. His booth consisted of everything from arc flash protective clothing and hats to high-voltage and low-voltage line technician's gloves and liners, all designed to keep those working around electricity safe.

Baker talked about the importance of the safety products, and he noted that the protective gloves were made nearby in Charleston, South Carolina.

“This is our community,” Baker said. “We want everyone here to go home safe every night.”

SANTEE COOPER MAKES SAFETY A PRIORITY

Safety is an important aspect of work conditions at Santee Cooper, and not just for lineworkers. Whether in the middle of large-scale equipment or at a desk in an office, every employee is responsible for following safety practices. From preventing motor vehicle accidents to cleaning up spills, staying safe is part of the culture.

That collective safety consciousness has paid off. The American Public Power Association recognized Santee Cooper for its safety record and in March, 2013, awarded Santee Cooper the Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2012. In the category for large utilities, those with 1 million to 3.9 million worker-hours of annual worker exposure, APPA awarded Santee Cooper first place.

The award was presented to Santee Cooper during APPA’s annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference by Bob Rumbaugh, chair of the APPA Safety Committee. Santee Cooper’s board of directors also passed a resolution during the March board meeting commending employees for their dedication to safety on the job.

“Although receiving the APPA Safety Award of Excellence is an honor and something to be proud of, the real reward is having each and every employee go home to their families each day,” Coleman said.



Justin Parham, a line technician from York Electric Cooperative, competes in the knot-tying competition.



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Santee Cooper earns SERC reliability award

SERC Reliability Corporation has awarded its first “President’s Award” to Santee Cooper for the utility’s ongoing commitment to electric reliability excellence for its bulk power system.

The award was presented to Santee Cooper at the SERC CEO Summit held in Louisville, Ky., in June and highlighted the utility’s superior commitment to reliability performance and helping set a quality standard for SERC’s members and registered entities.

“The generation and transmission of electric power must be effectively planned and operated to meet consumers’ expectation for reliable electric service,” said Scott Henry, president and CEO of SERC Reliability Corporation. “Santee Cooper’s dedication to reliability excellence has earned them this recognition.”

“We are honored to receive the President’s Award for excellence in reliability,” said Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper president and CEO. “Santee Cooper’s mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of South Carolina. One of the main ways we accomplish this is by delivering electricity safely and reliably to our customers. This award is a testament to our employees’ commitment to our mission.”

Santee Cooper Mini-Bond sale

Santee Cooper’s spring 2013 Mini-Bond sale, April 1 through April 30, offered investors the opportunity to purchase municipal bonds for as little as \$200.

The completed spring Mini-Bond sale topped last year’s spring offering by approximately \$2.12 million. With a total of 1,375 orders placed and an average order of \$16,913, the 2013M1 Mini-Bond sale totaled \$23.25 million. Online orders ended up at 10 percent of the total sale in dollars, and 15 percent of the sale in number of orders.

Santee Cooper Mini-Bonds, which are tax exempt, are available for purchase by residents of South Carolina, customers of Santee Cooper, members of the state’s electric cooperatives, electric customers of the city of Georgetown and electric customers of the Bamberg Board of Public Works. The term “tax-exempt” means exempt from federal and South Carolina income taxes for South Carolina residents under current law.

Carter receives top APPA award

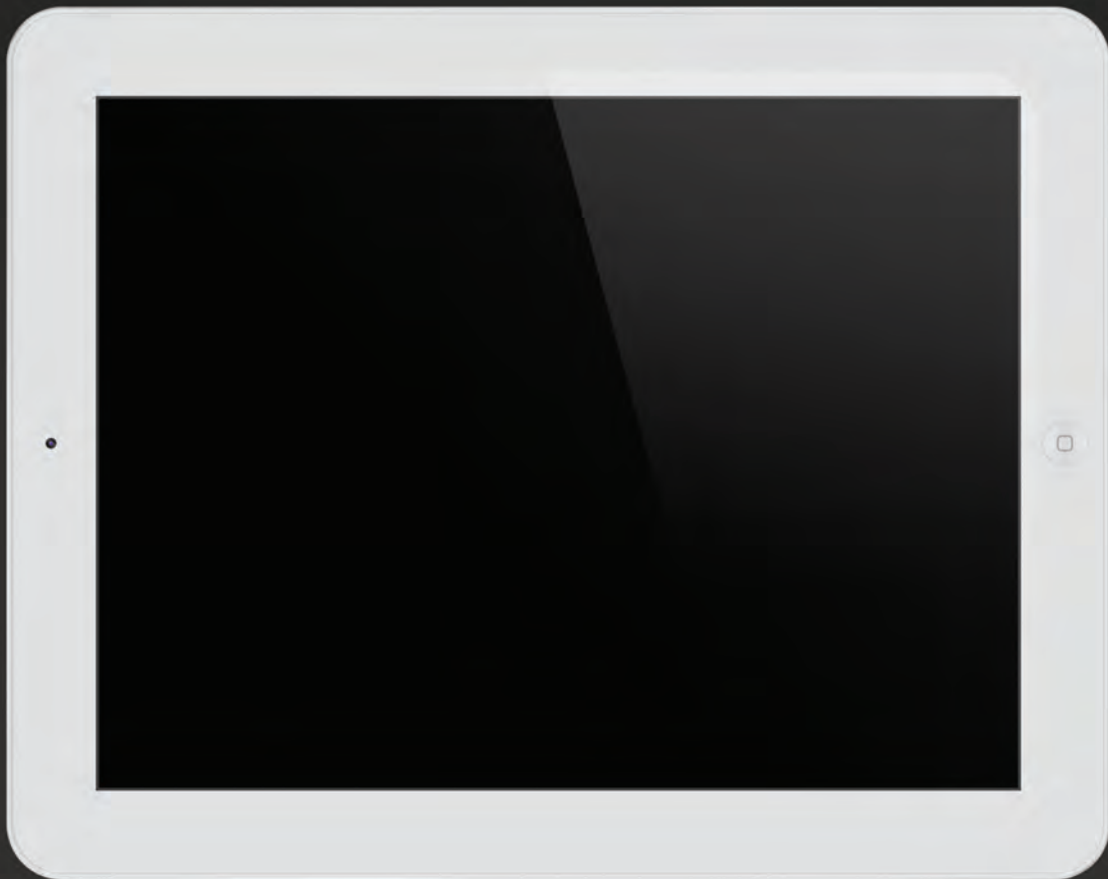
Lonnie Carter, president and CEO of Santee Cooper, received the American Public Power Association’s Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award at the Association’s national conference in Nashville, Tenn. It is the highest award granted by APPA and is bestowed in recognition of exceptional leadership and dedication to public power.

Improving lake access, recreation on Santee Cooper Lakes

Santee Cooper began its seasonal treatment of mosquitoes and invasive water plants in May.

Santee Cooper typically sprays around 60,000 acres annually by truck for adult mosquito control and about 300 acres for larval control in communities surrounding the Santee Cooper Lakes. The chemicals used in spraying processes are EPA-approved permethrin and resmethrin, which are delivered by truck, and etofenprox, which is delivered aerially. Employees who spray are licensed with the South Carolina Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Santee Cooper also conducts helicopter treatments of EPA-approved herbicides targeting the invasive aquatic plant water hyacinth in Lake Marion. These applications should improve lake access for residential and commercial properties, restore recreational opportunities and help prevent the spread of water hyacinth to other areas within the Santee Cooper Lakes system.



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